

What is claimed is:

1. A locking lamp base and socket comprising:
 - a lamp base;
 - a plurality of contact pins connected to said lamp base extending from a surface;
 - a bridge extending between pairs of said plurality of contact pins;
 - a gap formed between the surface of said lamp base and said bridge;
 - a socket;
 - an opening in said socket adapted to receive said plurality of contact pins and said bridge; and
 - a locking land associated with said socket and adapted to selectively extend into said gap,
whereby when said locking land extends into said gap,
relative axial movement between said lamp base and said socket is prevented.

2. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 1 further comprising:

a notch formed in said bridge; and

a pin adapted to mate with said notch formed on said locking land,

whereby said plurality of contact pins and said bridge are capable of fitting within said opening in a predetermined angular orientation.

3. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 1 further comprising:

a spring contact having recesses adapted to mate with each of said plurality of contact pins.

4. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 1 wherein:

said bridge comprises a bridge support connected to the surface of said lamp base and a plurality of arms connected to said bridge support extending radially therefrom.

5. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 4 further comprising:

fingers attached to each of said plurality of arms, said fingers extending around a circumferential portion of a respective one of said plurality of contact pins.

6. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 1
wherein:

 said plurality of contact pins comprises four contact
pins.

7. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 6
wherein:

 said bridge comprises an X-shape having four arms.

8. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 7
further comprising:

 fingers placed on the end of each of said four arms,
said fingers extending around a circumferential portion of
a respective one of said plurality of contact pins.

9. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 1
further comprising:

 a gas discharge lamp attached to said lamp base.

10. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 9
wherein:

 said gas discharge lamp comprises a fluorescent lamp.

11. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 9
wherein:

said gas discharge lamp comprises a germicidal lamp.

12. A locking lamp base and socket comprising:
a lamp base having a surface;
a plurality of contact pins connected to said lamp
base extending from the surface;
a bridge extending between pairs of said plurality of
contact pins over the surface forming a gap between said
bridge and the surface;
a socket;
an opening in said socket adapted to pass through said
plurality of pins and said bridge and permitting said lamp
base to be rotated relative to said socket;
a plurality of spring clips adapted to mate with said
plurality of contact pins; and
a locking land formed on said socket and adapted to
extend under said bridge into the gap between said bridge
and the surface,
whereby when said lamp base is rotated relative to
said socket, said plurality of contact pins engage said

plurality of spring clips and said locking lands extend under said bridge into the gap between said bridge and said surface.

13. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 12 further comprising:

a notch formed in said bridge; and
a pin adapted to mate with said notch formed on said locking land,
whereby said plurality of contact pins and said bridge are capable of fitting within said opening in a single predetermined angular orientation.

14. A locking lamp base and socket as in claim 12 further comprising:

a gas discharge lamp attached to said lamp base.

15. A locking lamp base and socket for axially securing the lamp base to the socket comprising:

a gas discharge lamp;
a lamp base having a surface attached to an end of said gas discharge lamp;

a plurality of contact pins connected to said lamp base extending from the surface;

a bridge support attached to the surface of said lamp base;

a plurality of arms attached to said bridge support, said plurality of arms extending between pairs of said plurality of contact pins over the surface forming a gap between each of said plurality of arms and the surface;

fingers attached to a distal end of each of said plurality of arms, said fingers extending around a circumferential portion of a respective one of said plurality of contact pins;

a socket;

an opening in said socket adapted to pass through said plurality of pins and said plurality of arms, said opening permitting relative rotational movement between said lamp base and said socket;

a plurality of spring clips adapted to mate with said plurality of contact pins; and

a plurality of locking lands formed on said socket, said plurality of locking lands adapted to extend under said plurality of arms into the gap between said plurality

of arms and the surface when said lamp base is rotated relative to said socket,

whereby when said lamp base is rotated relative to said socket, said plurality of contact pins engage said plurality of spring clips and said locking lands extend under said plurality of arms into the gap between said bridge and said surface.

16. A locking lamp base and socket for axially securing said lamp base to said socket as in claim 15 further comprising:

a notch formed in one of said plurality of arms; and
a pin adapted to mate with said notch formed on said locking land,

whereby said plurality of contact pins and said bridge are capable of fitting within said opening in a single predetermined angular orientation.

17. A lamp assembly adapted to be locked within a lamp socket comprising:

a lamp;
a lamp base having a surface, said lamp base attached to an end of said lamp;

a plurality of contact pins connected to said lamp base and extending from the surface; and
a bridge extending between pairs of said plurality of contact pins over the surface forming a gap between said bridge and the surface,

whereby a portion of the lamp socket is capable of selectively extending under the gap preventing relative axial movement between said lamp base and the lamp socket.

18. A lamp assembly adapted to be locked within a lamp socket as in claim 17 further comprising:
a key notch placed within said bridge,
whereby said key notch is capable of mating with a key pin formed on the lamp socket.